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Plague.—Uralsk, 2 cases present. At Akbolyk (Astrakhan), 1 case, 2 deaths.

Smallpox.—At Libau, January 9, 4 cases present.

Typhus fever.—At Libau, 1 case.

Week ended January 22. The steamship *Lituania* sailed from Libau for New York January 22 with 488 passengers and a crew of 94. All on board had been in Libau for the full 5 days. Pieces of baggage disinfected, 98.

Plague.—No new cases have been reported in the Uralsk since January 6. The last case died January 12. The district was declared free from plague January 17 and quarantine raised.

Smallpox.—At Odense, Denmark, 7 cases of "black smallpox" were reported. They were imported on a steamship from Windau, Russia, which is within 6 hours' voyage by steamship from Odense. All schools and places of amusement have been closed.

Summary of cases of contagious diseases in St. Petersburg for the year 1909.—Cholera 5,238 cases, diphtheria 4,306 cases, recurrent fever 1,814 cases, smallpox 1,309 cases, typhus fever 346 cases.

VENEZUELA.

LA GUAIRA—Inspection of Vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Kellogg reports, January 16:

Week ended January 15. Vessels inspected: January 10, steamship *Martinique* for Colon with 140 in crew, 185 passengers in transit and 9 taken on at this port; January 12, steamship *Caracas* for New York with 70 in crew and 22 passengers taken on; and January 13, steamship *Maracaibo* for New York with 50 in crew and 3 passengers taken on. Pieces of baggage inspected and passed, 49.

Bureau of National Hygiene and Public Health.

Consul Manning reports, January 8:

The Government of Venezuela has placed the bureau of national hygiene and public health under the ministry of the interior and appointed a director of the bureau and a chief officer, with assistants. The new decree repeals the appointment of a consulting officer of hygiene and public health and the hygiene commission and gives to the new bureau the charge of all matters heretofore in the hands of the sanitary commission. The same decree creates a superior council of hygiene and public health in connection with the ministry of the interior, consisting of the professors of hygiene, physical and chemical biology, physiology, and bacteriology of the Central University, the president of the law college, president of the college of engineers, medical director of the military hospital, medical director of the hospital for the insane, the director-general of the leper hospitals at Cape Blanco and Island of Providencia, the inspector-general of the hospitals of the federal district and the director-general of hygiene of the federal district. This body will be presided over by the director of hygiene and public health and the chief officer of the bureau will act as secretary. It will formulate regulations for public sanitation, and on approval by the president its acts will have the force of law.